

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

FEB 05 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated July 24, 2002. Please enter the amendments and remarks provided below.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract with the Abstract of the Disclosure provided herein.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and add new claims 16-20.

16. (New) A method for reverse drive mode operation of a hybrid electric vehicle, the hybrid electric vehicle having a traction motor and an operating internal combustion engine and operating generator mechanically coupled via a power transmission device, the method comprising:

determining an output power of the internal combustion engine;

determining a power circulation loss between the generator and the motor;

determining a benefit power based on the difference between the output power of the internal combustion engine and the power circulation loss; and

stopping operation of the internal combustion engine during the reverse drive mode operation of the vehicle if the benefit power is less than a predetermined threshold power value.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein if the benefit power is greater than or equal to the